November 17, 2004

Welcome New Members

Frank Patty, Jr. (fmpatty@tecinfo.com)

Membership information about the Southern Gold Society and the latest SGS eNewsletter will be emailed to anyone interested in the organization. Please email David Crenshaw (dcnumisma@charter.net) your referrals.

News You Can Use

We are looking for a volunteer to organize a SGS gathering during the Florida United Numismatists convention in Ft. Lauderdale, January 13-16, 2005. If you are interested in coordinating the gathering, please contact David Crenshaw at dcnumisma@charter.net. Also, any ideas and/or suggestions for the gathering would be appreciated. Last year's gathering at FUN was highlighted by a discussion on *The Green Pond Collection* of Dahlonega gold coins.

One of the purposes of the SGS is to "enjoy each member's knowledge." This newsletter is one of the ways this numismatic knowledge is dispersed. The editor of the SGS eNewsletter needs new material and welcomes the opportunity to review your original article for publication. Articles should be relevant to the study of the gold coins and related history of the Dahlonega, Charlotte, and New Orleans branch mints and private minters Templeton Reid and the Bechtlers. If you do a presentation at a gathering or other venue, consider compiling your notes into an article. Do not worry about the grammar. The editor will do the rest. Manuscripts (MS Word or compatible format preferred) should be submitted by email to dcnumisma@charter.net.

Illness Sidelines Vaccaro

Lenny Vaccaro was recently diagnosis with lung cancer, which resulted in the removal of his right lung. He will be undergoing chemotherapy treatments for the next several weeks. His prognosis for a full recovery is excellent.

Vaccaro is president of Realm Communications. The SGS website was being built gratis by Vaccaro's company, but has been indefinitely postponed, so that Vaccaro may focus on his illness, family, and business in the coming months.

David Crenshaw will be taking over the development of the website. He has over 15 years of experience designing, developing, and maintaining software applications. He expects to have the website's foundation on-line early next year.

We apologize for the further delay of the website's construction and appreciate everyone's patience waiting for its completion. In the meantime, please keep Lenny in your thoughts and prayers.

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Regular $25 (January-December)

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Board of Directors

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Carl Lester, Vice Chair (cnlester@hiwaay.net)
David Patton, Board Member (patpatton@mac.com)
Doug Winter, Board Member (dwn@ont.com)
Jeff Garrett, Board Member (coinman4u@aol.com)

August 28, 2004

Welcome New Members

Membership information about the Southern Gold Society and the latest SGS eNewsletter will be emailed to anyone interested in the organization. Please email David Crenshaw (dcnumisma@charter.net) your referrals.

News You Can Use

The SGS was well represented in the "U.S. and Territorial Gold Coinage, 1795-1933" class during the 2004 American Numismatic Association's Summer Seminar in Colorado Springs. Instructors Robert Rhue and Doug Winter are members as well as students Reece Kimes, Chip Cutcliff, and David Crenshaw. Robert led a discussion on all the private and territorial gold coins listed in *A Guide Book of United States Coins*, which he gave a copy to each student. Additional materials included a historical timeline of territorial gold coins; a list of territorial and pioneer gold companies; examples of interesting territorial gold coin sets to collect; and a booklet with many photographs of territorial coins. In addition, many examples of the various pieces being discussed were shared with the class. Doug gave a slide presentation on the Dahlonega, Charlotte, and New Orleans coinage. Reece was kind enough to let the students examine his impressive collection of New Orleans gold coins. By the end of the week, everyone had a greater appreciation of these coins.

Louisiana State Museum Seeking Donations

The Louisiana State Museum is currently seeking donations of both gold and silver "O" mint mark coins and loans of significant artifacts for a new exhibit. Negotiations are underway with Odyssey Marine Explorations for a long term loan of coins that were recovered from the wreck of the SS Republic off the coast of Georgia. The

Museum has just recently received on loan an 1861-O half dollar that was once owned by the Dupont family. It sold in 2002 for $17,000. They are also hoping to have a section on counterfeiting and are seeking donations of "O" mint mark counterfeit coins and devices as well. "Our own collection is especially weak in "O" mark gold coins and that is why we are seeking donations rather than loans of coins from individuals," said Director of Collections Greg Lambousy. A new gallery in the New Orleans Mint building will be devoted to the coin exhibit; including a new lighting system and high security display cases. For more information, please contact Greg Lambousy, Director of Collections, Louisiana State Museum, glambousy@crt.state.la.us, 504-599-1946.

Southern Gold Society Discusses the New Orleans Mint by Carl N. Lester

An estimated 8-10 members and guests of the Southern Gold Society met on April 23, 2004, at the recent Georgia Numismatic Association's 40th Anniversary Convention, held in Dalton, Georgia. Snacks and a cash bar were provided for the members' convenience and enjoyment. A surprise guest was American Numismatic Association President Gary Lewis.

In keeping with the theme of highlighting the various collecting specialties of the Southern Gold Society, this meeting's topic was the New Orleans Mint. Member Al Adams passed around written material that had been obtained from Greg Lambousy, Director of Collections at the Louisiana State Museum. Foremost among these was an excellent article written by Mr. Lambousy, entitled "The Mint in New Orleans," which appeared in the March 2003 issue of *Numismatist*. The article provides an interesting look inside the operations of the U. S. Branch Mint.

It was pointed out that articles such as the one by Greg Lambousy, and other historical association items, are outstanding ways to add historical context to ones collecting endeavors. Aside from being an interesting collectible, southern gold coins literally are "history that one can hold in their hand." One such historical association item that was passed around for the enjoyment of the members was a shipping ticket for the firm of McKleroy & Bradford, for the steamboat the "William Bagley," lying at the Port of New Orleans and bound for Montgomery, Alabama, via rail. The shipping ticket, dated March 1, 1855, had a caveat that allowed for delivery in less than good order, "due to the dangers of the Rivers and Fire." The material being

shipped included five bags of Rio coffee and six barrels of molasses, having been purchased by Noah Strong of Atlanta, Georgia. The ticket had a prominent oval stamp in red ink, which stated "Not Accountable for Leakage or Fermentation of Molasses." It also allowed for the privilege of "reshipping in case of low water" (apparently one of the "dangers of the rivers" referred to above).

Another topic of discussion was the recent article in the December 16, 2003 issue of the *SGS eNewsletter*, by Dave Ginsburg, entitled, "The Coins Aren't the Only things That Are Scarce" or "Tracking Down a Book about the New Orleans Mint." In the article, Mr. Ginsburg relates an intriguing search for a rare manuscript entitled *A History of the United States Mint, New Orleans, Louisiana*, by Charles J. Collins (Baton Rouge: LSU Printing Office, 1970). Fortunately, Mr. Ginsburg was successful in his search for the obscure manuscript, which was written by an architecture student at Louisiana State University. As might be expected, the study focuses on the building's architecture, as opposed to those activities going on within its walls. I feel that Mr. Ginsburg found a real treasure when he discovered the manuscript.

In an effort to continue the focus on the New Orleans Mint, I passed around an 1846 New Orleans $10 gold piece that I had purchased at a small coin show in Pelham, Alabama last September. I was originally attracted by the coin's warm glow and original appearance, but upon examining the coin in more detail, I noticed that there appeared to be extraneous metal under the "6" in the date. A quick glance of *Coin World's Coin Values* confirmed that there was indeed an "1846/5 overdate" for the 1846-O eagle. I purchased the coin at the show, consulted with the Winter and Breen references, as well as with the Harry Bass catalogs published by Bowers and Merena (or at least, what used to be Bowers and Merena), and felt convinced that this coin was one of the "overdate" varieties.

I found out later that there is some debate about whether there were actually overdates for the issue or whether these were just some other peculiar die varieties. Accordingly, PCGS designates these varieties as "1846/'5'-O." I had submitted the piece to PCGS and it was certified as the "1846/'5'-O" overdate. I also passed around the Winter, Breen, and Bass documentation. Bill Fivaz, who was present toward the end of the meeting, examined the coin and was of the opinion that the die was different than the high grade Bass example, illustrated with an enlarged

photograph (which I had passed around during the meeting). That coin was from the Bass IV sale (Lot 616), therein described as the "so-called overdate," which was previously the Eliasberg, Clapp, Ten Eyck, Cleneay specimen.

I for one enjoyed the get-together, although I thought that the attendance may have been held down a bit due to the meeting time (Friday at 1:00 p.m.) and the topic (unfortunately, none of the SGS New Orleans specialists attended). It is suggested that our next meeting be held on a Saturday, so that more SGS members would have a chance to attend.

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Southern Gold Society
FOUNDED 2001

March 23, 2004

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News You Can Use

Make plans to come join the Southern Gold Society at our 3rd annual official gathering during the Georgia Numismatic Association 40th Anniversary Coin Show. The coin show will be held April 23-25, 2004 at the Northwest Georgia Trade & Convention Center in Dalton (I-75, Exit 333). The gathering will be on Friday, April 23, 2004 starting at 1:00 PM in Room B1. In keeping with our Mission Statement, the gathering is not a regimented program, but more like a social event. A featured topic of discussion will be the New Orleans Mint. Members are encouraged to bring their New Orleans coins and artifacts to share with those in attendance as everyone mingles, sipping drinks (ice tea and lemonade) and eating snacks provided. A cash bar with beer and wine will be available.

Famed Duke's Creek Collection of Georgia Gold Trades Hands

[Atlanta, GA] Bob Harwell of Hancock & Harwell Rare Coins and Jeff Garrett of Mid American Rare Coins galleries have announced the purchase the world's finest set of Georgia Gold Coins. This amazing collection is comprised of three groups of gold coins minted from 1830 to 1861 in Georgia and North Carolina from gold discovered in North Georgia in 1828. The collection was purchased for over three million dollars. "*This transaction ranks as the pinnacle of my career*, *and parting with the coins has been the most difficult aspect of the deal*." states Jeff Garrett. The collection has been re-sold in two parts. Both the Tempelton Reid coins and the

Georgia Bechtler coinage have been sold to territorial gold specialist Don Kagin. The coins will be included in the private collection of one of the finest sets of territorial gold ever assembled. The federal coinage from the Dahlonega Mint has been sold to rare gold expert, Casey Noxon of Texas Numismatic Investments. Noxon states *"I am extremely pleased to have acquired this important collection. Many years ago I was able to handle the Stanley Elrod collection of Charlotte gold, and I thought that would have been hard to top. Incredibly the Dukes Creek Dahlonega coins are finer on average."*

The collection consists of three coins from Templeton Reid's private mint in Gainesville, GA. These three coins are the finest of his coinage. The $2.5 grades NGC MS 61 and has proof-like surfaces. It is the only Mint State coin known of this series. The $5 and $10 coin from Templeton Reid's mint grade AU50 and AU53 respectively and are from the renowned Brand Collection. The $5 is the second finest known only slightly lower grade than the Garrett Specimen purchased by Hancock & Harwell in 1979 for $200,000. The $10 Templeton Reid, the dated variety, is by far the finest in private hands. The only coin that is equal is the Non-dated coin in the Smithsonian Collection. This coin grades AU also. Templeton Reid was the first to coin gold ore at his private mint established in Gainesville only 12 miles from Dahlonega, Georgia where the first gold rush started in the late 1820's. It was estimated that Reid coined between 1500-1600 coins during the few months that he operated. Less than 40 are know to survive.

The gold coins from the Christopher Bechtler private mint are also notable. The $2.5 both grade AU. The highlight of this group is the Exceeding Rare C. Bechtler, "Colon Before 22 and After 128G", one of only 3 known. This coin is from the famous John Jay Pitman Collection. Bechtler minted $1 coins and then shortly after the Mint Act of 1834, Bechtler stamped the source from were the gold was mined to indicate the fineness of the coins struck. The coins exhibiting "Georgia Gold" were contained the highest purity although some may have been mixed with the less fine Carolina Gold. The $2.5 with uneven 22 above carats and half eagle with colon before 22 and after 128 G are both finest known.

The gold coins from the federal mint in Dahlonega Georgia are absolutely incredible. "*One of the finest collections of any type ever put together*", says Mark Salzberg of

NGC, as he looked over the only known MS 67 Dahlonega Half Eagle. This collection consists of 63 Mint State coins ranging from MS60 to MS 67. Over 75% of the coins are ranked as the finest graded for the date and mint.

The owner of the Duke's Creek Collection of Dahlonega Gold coins assembled the collection over many years with the help of Bob Harwell and the late numismatist Jack Hancock. As noted in the book *"Gold Fever and the Great Intrusion"* the owner's great, great grandfather was credited with discovering gold in Georgia. The quote, "T.B. is supposed to have made yet another discovery on Duke's Creek, said Judge John Underwood, to whom his great, great grandfather related his story, "There came up a storm and blew down some tall timber along Duke's Creek… and in the roots of the timber T.B. found the first gold ever discovered… in Georgia". Thus the Duke's Creek Collection was formed.

The owners' quest to put together the finest set had ended. The set was put together with the finest Dahlonega Mint coins that had been sold over a 25 year period by Hancock & Harwell to its clients. All the finest coins were sought out and added to the spectacular Duke's Creek collection. Many of the coins trace their pedigrees to such famous collections as Arthur L. Montgomery, Bill Clary, the Farmer Collection, Harold Bareford, John J. Pittman, Harry Bass, Rand McNalley, Hollinbeck, Virgil Brand, Renz, Belden Roach, Jasper Robertson, Fairfield, Coles, John Clapp, Milas, Louis Eliasberg, and the Fairfield Collection. The coins were recently graded by the Numismatic Guaranty Corp. The Dahlonega Mint coinage was graded as follows:

Gold Dollars: 1849-D MS64, 1850-D MS63, 1851-D MS65, 1852-D MS62, 1853-D MS63, 1854-D MS61, 1855-D MS64, 1855-D Full Date MS64, 1856-D MS61, 1857-D MS62, 1858-D MS66, 1859-D MS64, 1860-D MS64, 1861-D MS65

Quarter Eagles: 1839-D MS63, 1840-D MS62, 1841-D MS63, 1842-D MS61, 1843-D MS61, 1844-D MS63, 1845-D MS63, 1846-D MS63, 1846-D/D AU58, 1847-D MS65, 1848-D MS62, 1849-D MS62, 1850-D MS61, 1851-D MS65, 1852-D MS64, 1853-D MS62, 1854-D MS64, 1855-D MS61, 1856-D MS61, 1857-D MS62, 1859-D MS62

Three Dollars: 1854-D MS62

Half Eagles: 1838-D MS63, 1839-D MS61, 1840-D MS62, 1841-D MS65, 1842-D SD MS63, 1842-D LD MS61, 1843-D MS64, 1844-D MS64, 1845-D MS64, 1846-D MS61, 1846-D/D MS66, 1847-D MS63, 1848-D MS62, 1848-D/D AU58, 1849-D MS65, 1850-D MS61, 1851-D MS64, 1852-D MS63, 1853-D MS64, 1854-D MS67, 1855-D MS61, 1856-D MS65, 1857-D MS63, 1858-D MS65, 1859-D MS64, 1860-D MS64, 1861-D MS64

For more information on the history and information on this collection you may call Bob Harwell 404-261-6565, Jeff Garrett 859-276-1551, Casey Noxon 512-343-0343 or Don Kagin 415-435-2601.

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March 3, 2004

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Robert Rhue (rrhue@qwest.net)

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We currently have 27 members. Twenty-one members renewed their membership for 2004. Eleven members did not renew their membership. We appreciate everyone's loyalty and support that renewed their membership, which allows us to continue to grow financially since our inception in 2001. Driven by our mission statement, we continue to develop at an informal, relaxed pace. The highlight of last year was the adoption of our logo. This year we are working hard on getting the website established.

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Special Issue

2003 Year in Review

January 28, 2004

Introduction

We are an Internet based national organization. To this end, we communicate by the SGS eNewsletter, www.SouthernGoldSociety.org website, and email reducing the use of any non-electronic means of communication. In essence, we are driven by our Mission Statement to run an informal, relaxed association governed by a Board of Directors. The official annual gathering of members is in conjunction with the Georgia Numismatic Association Coin Show. Members may choose to gather at other numismatic venues throughout the year.

2003 in Review

The Society's annual gathering at the Georgia Numismatic Association Coin Show was dubbed the "C-Mint Social." Members were treated to a number of Charlotte Mint and Mecklenburg County-related brochures and souvenir handouts, provided by member Al Adams of *Gold Rush Gallery*. Al also passed around for the members' enjoyment several paper artifacts related to the Charlotte Mint. Carl Lester provided free copies of an item formerly in the library of famed numismatic literature specialist Armand Champa: Report No. 18 of the 26th Congress, 2nd Session of the House of Representatives (Expenditures—Branch Mint at Charlotte, N. C.). The report was made on July 21, 1840 and contains much detailed and interesting insight into the expenditures of the Charlotte Mint. The highlight of the get-together was provided by Doug Winter of *Douglas Winter Numismatics*. Doug shared with the group a number of high grade Charlotte Mint gold coins. As an added treat, Doug provided free copies of a CD, containing beautiful color photographs of the *Green Pond Collection* of Dahlonega Mint Gold Coins.

The Society's logo was adopted with 56% percent of the members voting for their favorite logo. The winning logo captured 65% of the votes! The new logo consists of the society's initials interlocked in a sans serif typeface. The letters "S" are blue and vertically centered in the letter "G," which is highlighted in gold. The logo is flanked on the right with the society's name. The 2001 founding date is noted below the word "Society." The logo was designed for the society by graphic artist Lenny Vaccaro of Realm Communications in Atlanta. "The interconnecting of the three beginning letters of the society's name made an interesting design that worked together as a unit creating a clean, easy to read and identifiable logo," Vaccaro said.

The Society's Board of Directors voted to have the founding dealer members that contributed $500 to financially "jump start" the society at its inception, given life memberships. Congratulations to the following founding dealer members: Al Adams, Bob Harwell, Grant Campbell, Jeff Garrett, Greg Rohan, and Doug Winter.

The website is under construction! Realm Communications in Atlanta is assisting with the design of the website. The majority of the website's content has been completed and has been delivered to Realm Communications. We wish to thank Carl Lester, James Gray, Dave Ginsburg, Greg Lambousy (Director of Collections, Louisiana State Museum), and Al Adams for writing the website's introductory text about the Dahlonega, Charlotte, and New Orleans mints and the Bechtlers and T. Reid private minters.

The completely revised and updated edition to board member Doug Winter's definitive work on Dahlonega gold coins was published. You will find all new photographs, considerable new information on die varieties, revised information on overall and by-grade rarity for each issue, completely revised Condition Census information, and more. The book is 237 pages, fully illustrated in hardcover.

Membership Report

9 Regular
9 Charter
18 Founding
36 Total members

Annual membership dues are $25 (January-December). Charter and Founding memberships are no longer offered, but Regular membership is available. Membership for new members joining in October, November, or December extends through the next year. Membership may be renewed each year for the current annual membership dues. Considering the organization's Internet, electronic format, we do not issue paper membership cards or certificates recognizing Charter or Founding members. Founding members received a special "thank you" letter by email. Each new member receives an email welcoming them, stating their membership number. Membership renewals are acknowledged by email.

Note: The initial dues structure, including that of the Charter and Founding Members, was an attempt to financially "jump start" the Society. Additional costs will be incurred in constructing and maintaining the Society's website. The dues structure will be reviewed annually and adjustments made (either up or down), based on the actual expenses incurred. It is believed that the $25 annual fee should be considered a nominal sum for most collectors of southern gold coins.

Membership Roster

In keeping with the Society's Mission Statement, the membership roster is provided with email addresses and collecting interests to encourage members to communicate with one another. This membership roster is for the exclusive use of the members, not to be used for commercial purposes. Please send updates of your personal information to dccrenshaw@charter.net**.**

Name	Company	Email	Collect
Al Adams	Gold Rush Gallery	info@goldrushgallery.com	
George Backhaus		George.Backhaus@Glenayre.com	
Michael Bernard		MBernard@mcubedinfo.com	
David Boitnott		clboitnott@nc.rr.com	
Grant Campbell	Dalton Gold & Silver Exchange	dgse@daltongoldsilver.com	

David Crenshaw		dccrenshaw@charter.net	Dahlonega
Chip Cutcliff		chascoins@aol.com	
Joseph Gaines		joegcsa@aol.com	Dahlonega
Jeff Garrett	Mid-American Rare Coin Gallery	coinman4u@aol.com	
Steven Gellinger		gnevets@aol.com	Dahlonega
David Ginsburg		ginsburg.d@worldnet.att.net	New Orleans Eagles
James Gray		jgray67@carolina.rr.com	Bechtlers
Bob Harwell	Hancock and Harwell	bob@raregold.com	
Robert Hoadley			Pioneer, $1 Bechtler
William House		roosterranch@earthlink.net	Dahlonega, Charlotte, T. Reid Bechtler gold
Michael Jeffers		mrplmbr@bellsouth.net	
Robert Kanterman		rkanterman@goinet.com	
Bill Keeling		billk@gatewaypressinc.com	$5 Dahlonega
Reece Kimes		rkimes@adelphia.net	New Orleans
Carl Lester		cnlester@hiwaay.net	Dahlonega
Mitchell Morgan			
Paul Nugget	Spectrum East		
Don Paschal	North Metro Gold-N-Coins	coinvette@aol.com	
L. W. Paschal, Jr.		lwpaschal@cs.com	$1 Bechtler
David Patton		patpatton@mac.com	Dahlonega

Guy Peterson			
Greg Rohan	Heritage	rohan@heritagecoin.com	
Robert Ryan	Ryan International	rryanjr@cfl.rr.com	
Russell Sayegh		islandruss@worldnet.att.net	New Orleans Eagles
Phillip Smith		p.coins@mindspring.com	
Radford Stearns		crstearns@aol.com	T. Reid, Georgia Bechtler
David Steine		dave@tristarengine.com	
Mark Van Winkle	Heritage Numismatic Auctions	mark@heritagecoin.com	
Ron Wichman		ronwichman@msn.com	
Douglas Winter	Douglas Winter Numismatics	dwn@ont.com	
Sam Young		liberty-sam@msn.com	

2003 Financial Summary

Banking Summary Report
1/1/2003 – 12/31/2003
ENDING BALANCE 3549.00

INCOME
Membership Dues 650.00
TOTAL INCOME 650.00

EXPENSES
Association Dues 015.00
Entertainment 160.50
Website 168.00
TOTAL EXPENSES 343.50

NET INCOME 306.50

Notes: Association Dues was for Florida United Numismatist membership renewal; Entertainment expense was for the C-Mint Social (drinks, snacks, and cash bar provided); Website expense was for renewal of the website's domain name and software purchased to manage the website.

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Application for Membership

Regular $25 (January-December)

Membership for new members joining in October, November, or December extends through the next year. Checks for membership fees should be made payable to the **Southern Gold Society** and mailed to **David Crenshaw, P.O. Box 2235, Lawrenceville, GA 30046-2235**. Please do not reference the Society's name in the address.

Name:_____

Email: _____

Board of Directors

David Crenshaw, Board Chair (dccrenshaw@charter.net)

Carl Lester, Vice Chair (cnlester@hiwaay.net)

David Patton, Board Member (patpatton@mac.com)

Doug Winter, Board Member (dwn@ont.com)

Jeff Garrett, Board Member (coinman4u@aol.com)

January 28, 2004

Welcome New Members

Greg Rohan, Heritage (rohan@heritagecoin.com)
David Steine (dave@tristarengine.com)
David Wnuck (dave@earlycoins.com)

Membership information about the Southern Gold Society and the latest SGS eNewsletter will be emailed to anyone interested in the organization. Please email David Crenshaw (dccrenshaw@charter.net) your referrals.

2004 Dues Notice

The 2004 membership dues are due now. If you joined in October – December, 2003, your membership is good through 2004. Checks for membership fees ($25) should be made payable to the **Southern Gold Society** and mailed to **David Crenshaw, P.O. Box 2235, Lawrenceville, GA 30046-2235**. Please do not reference the Society's name in the address. If you have already paid your 2004 dues, please disregard this notice Thank you!

News You Can Use

Make plans to come join the Southern Gold Society at our 3rd annual official gathering during the Georgia Numismatic Association 40th Anniversary Coin Show. The coin show will be held April 23-25, 2004 at the Northwest Georgia Trade & Convention Center in Dalton (I-75, Exit 333). The gathering's date and time will be announced soon.

Last month, the Society's Board of Directors voted to have the founding dealer members that contributed $500 to financially "jump start" the society at its inception

given life memberships. Congratulations to the following founding dealer members: Al Adams, Bob Harwell, Grant Campbell, Jeff Garrett, Greg Rohan, and Doug Winter.

Member Robert Kanterman reports that Doug Winter's book, "New Orleans Mint Gold Coins, 1839-1909," which is out of print and hard to find is presently available from Chuck D'Ambra Coins, call 303-681-2261 or visit their website at www.telesphere.com.

U.S. and Territorial Gold Coinage, 1795-1933 Course Offered

The 2004 American Numismatic Association Summer Seminar is offering a course on "U.S. and Territorial Gold Coinage, 1795-1933." U.S. gold issues will be explored, with emphasis on the branch mint coinage from Charlotte, Carson City, and Dahlonega. Discover the history and romance behind the gold coins produced by the private minters of Georgia and North Carolina, and those of their counterparts in Colorado, Oregon, Utah and California.

The class will carefully study the superb Harry W. Bass collection in the ANA Museum as well as view coins and photos from the instructors' collections.

The instructors will be Doug Winter and Robert Rhue. Winter, a board member of the SGS, is an author and professional dealer specializing in 18th and 19th century U.S. gold issues. Rhue is a professional dealer specializing in territorial and pioneer gold coinage.

For more information about the 2004 ANA Summer Seminar, visit www.money.org/sumsem2004.html.

Green Pond Collection of Dahlonega Gold Anchors FUN Gathering of Southern Gold Society

By Carl N. Lester

For southern gold enthusiasts, the 2004 Florida United Numismatists (FUN) Convention will long be remembered as the venue for the sale of the Green Pond Collection of Dahlonega Mint gold coins. Members of the Southern Gold Society were invited to meet on Friday, January 9, at 2:00 p.m. to listen to comments by the collection's cataloguer and SGS board member, Douglas Winter, of Pinnacle Rarities.

Greg Rohan, President of Heritage Numismatic Auctions, was also on hand to discuss the collection and to present SGS members with a beautiful, hard-bound copy of the Green Pond Collection auction catalog. Mr. Rohan invited absent members of the SGS to contact him for a complimentary copy of the hard-bound catalog. Afterwards, members visited with one another, swapping southern gold stories and information.

The Green Pond Collection auction catalog was superbly produced, with enlarged color photographs of the complete set of 65 coins (including major varieties), on glossy paper, with splendid, detailed coin descriptions by Mr. Winter. The catalog presentation far surpassed that provided for any previous specialized collection of Dahlonega Mint gold coins. Most of the coins in the collection also had the cachet of being the plate coin in the second edition of Mr. Winter's *Gold Coins of the Dahlonega Mint, 1838-1861*.

For those unfamiliar with the collection, a few comments are in order. The collection was assembled over a period of about six years, by a collector known for assembling finest-known sets of coinage. This collector appears to have been constrained only by time and opportunity. In my opinion, six years is too short a period of time to put together a finest-known set of Dahlonega gold coins. This honor is probably held by the Dukes Creek Collection, which was formed over a much longer period of time. Nonetheless, the Green Pond Collection was a very high-grade collection that contained its share of amazing coins.

Having arrived at the Convention Center on Monday, well before the onslaught of the numismatic masses, I was privileged to be able to look at each coin in the collection in a leisurely fashion. The only thing to temper my enjoyment of the coins was the frigid temperature in the auction lot viewing room. We came back on Tuesday, to take an additional look at our favorite coins. I brought a jacket for day two and was much more comfortable.

I knew beforehand that this collection would be too pricey for my budget, but I still had a coin or two in which I was interested. I was entertaining the idea of bidding on the AU58 1859-D (large D variety) half eagle from the Eliasberg Collection, but I did not like the very obtrusive patch of hairline scratches below and to the right of

Liberty's eye. Oddly, for a collection of this high caliber, there were a handful of coins that I did not like.

The collection was auctioned at the opening of the "Platinum Night" session on Wednesday, January 7. Normally at the FUN Convention, the gold is auctioned later in the week (Friday night is typical). We got to the auction room in plenty of time to get a seat, but soon the room was filled to standing-room-only capacity, so the "early" session did not seem to be a detriment. My feeling as the auction was underway was that the prices were strong. As it turned out, one dealer bought the lion's share of the lots. I was a little surprised and disappointed that more of the material did not go directly to southern gold collectors or to dealers specializing in southern gold.

After all was said and done, the collection realized $1,704,300, including the 15% buyer's premium, for an average of $26,220 per coin. Some of my favorites from the collection were the 1855-D full date gold dollar, in PCGS MS61 ($46,000), the Eliasberg 1861-D gold dollar, in PCGS MS63 ($86,250), an 1854-D three dollar piece, in PCGS MS61 ($92,000), the Norweb-Bass 1845-D half eagle, in PCGS MS65 ($57,500), and the Farouk-Norweb 1861-D half eagle, in PCGS MS62 ($74,750).

Mission Statement

The Southern Gold Society was formed to increase the enjoyment and study of Southern gold coins and related history, through an informal, relaxed mix of education and fellowship. The society is reminiscent of those of a bygone era, in which connoisseurship and a gentlemanly appreciation of Southern gold coins is the order of the day.

Purpose

- To facilitate the enjoyment and study of the gold coins and related history of the Southern branch mints (Dahlonega, Charlotte, and New Orleans) and private Southern minters (Templeton Reid and the Bechtlers).
- To enjoy each member's knowledge and friendship in an informal manner.
- To provide a relaxed, pleasant environment in which to meet during selected coin shows and other convenient events.

- To encourage the appreciation and preservation of a Southern gold coin's original surfaces.
- To consolidate the information, resources, and talent available to enthusiasts of these historic Southern gold coins.

Annual Membership Fees

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